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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

February Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during February 2004 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was 11 percent below January 2004, but 38 percent above February 2003 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 821,000 pounds live weight, up 42 percent from February 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 800 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 979 pounds, was up 54 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 173,000 pounds live weight, up 24 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 258 pounds, was up 10 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES –Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003.

Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **February 2004** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs, and 1.00 billion hatching

eggs, of which 948 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2004 averaged 339 million, down slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,033 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2003.

February 2004 contained 29 days due to the leap year. Both **February 2004** and **February 2003** contained 20 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2004, totaled 340 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2004, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.44 billion eggs during February 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during February, at 316 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 32.1 million, up 7 percent from February 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.3 million on March 1, 2004, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 285,000 during February 2004, up 29 percent from February 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 5 Percent

The February 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 728 million, was up 5 percent from February of the previous year. There were 648 million eggs in incubators on March 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.3 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2004, up 10 percent from February 2003.

MILK PRODUCTION

First Quarter Milk Production Up

WEST VIRGINIA -- Milk production in West Virginia totaled 53 million pounds during the January - March quarter of 2004. This was down 3 million pounds from the same quarter last year but 1 million pounds above the October - December 2003 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 14,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter, but down 1,000 head from the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES -- Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 42.7 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 head less than the sameperiod last year.

HOGS & PIGS

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, was 59.3 million head. This was 2 percent above March 1, 2003, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003, and down 1 percent from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 53.4 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2003 - February 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2003, and up slightly from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.81 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.85 for the December 2003 - February 2004 period, compared to 8.81 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the March-May 2004 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003, and 3 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for June-August 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period in 2003 and 1 percent below 2002.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2003 through December 2003 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the March 2003 and June 2003 total inventories. An adjustment of one percent was made to the September 2003 and December 2003 total inventories. An adjustment of less than one-half of one percent was made to the December 2002-February 2003 pig crop, March-May 2003 pig crop, and September-November 2003 pig crop. The June-August 2003 pig crop was adjusted three percent.

NASS has completed the 5-year historical review for March 1998 through December 2002. Final estimates were released on Monday, March 22, 2004, in the NASS Statistical Bulletin Number 986, Hogs and Pigs - Final Estimates 1998-2002.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

West Virginia 2004 Prospective Plantings

WEST VIRGINIA -- Corn plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 45,000 acres, down 6% or 3,000 acres from 2003 and down 10% or 5,000 acres from 2002.

Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 8,000 acres, down 33% or 4000 acres from 2003 and 2002.

Soybeans planted acreage is expected to total 16,000 acres, unchanged from 2003, but down 11% or 2,000 acres from 2002.

Burley tobacco growers intend to harvest 1,300 acres, up 8% or 100 acres from 2003, but unchanged from 2002.

All hay acreage harvested is expected to total 560,000 acres, up 3% or 15,000 acres from 2003, but down 2% or 10,000 acres from 2002.

United States with 2003 Comparisons

- **Corn plantings** - 79.0 million acres, up fractionally.
Biotech Corn seed as a percent of intended corn plantings:
Bt variety - 27% of 2004 crop, 25% of 2003 crop;
Herbicide Resistant variety - 14% of 2004 crop, 11% of 2003 crop;
Stacked Gene variety - 5% of 2004 crop, 4% of 2003 crop.
All Biotech Varieties - 46% of 2004 crop, 40% of 2003.
- **Oat plantings** - 4.31 million acres, down 6%.

- **Oats for grain harvest** - 2.07 million acres, down 7%.
- **Winter wheat seeded** - 43.4 million acres, down 3% from 2003.
- **All tobacco for harvest** - 414,550 acres, down fractionally, lowest since 1874.
- **Burley tobacco for harvest** - 157,200 acres, up 1%.
- **Soybean plantings** - 75.4 million acres, up 3%.
Biotech Soybean seed as a percent of intended soybean plantings:
Herbicide Resistant variety - 86% of 2004 crop, 81% of 2003 crop.
- **Sorghum plantings** - 8.6 million acres, down 9%.
- **Barley plantings** - 4.7 million acres, down 12%.
- **All hay for harvest** - 63.7 million acres, up 1%.

ANNUAL POULTRY SLAUGHTER

Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 1 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during January 2004 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.33 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in January 2003. Updated totals for December 2003 show that 3.25 billion pounds were certified.

The **preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected** during January 2004 was 4.49 billion pounds, up 1 percent from a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.85 billion pounds, up 2 percent from January 2003, mature chickens at 64.1 million pounds, were down 15 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 555 million pounds, down 9 percent, and ducks totaled 14.6 million pounds, up 2 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during January 2004 averaged 5.31 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from January 2003. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.66 pounds per bird, up 8 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during January 2004 averaged 27.6 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from January 2003.

Ante-mortem condemnations during January 2004 totaled 20.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.45 percent of the live weight inspected, compared to 0.51 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.12 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.28 percent a year earlier.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays. **January 2003** contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

ANNUAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION**Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up Slightly**

Broiler-type chicks hatched during 2003 totaled 9.08 billion, up slightly from 2002. This record level continues the trend of annual increases begun in 1975.

Leading breeders had intended placements of 82.1 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2003, down slightly from 2002.

19-State Broiler Placements Up Slightly

Placements of broiler chicks in the 19-State weekly program totaled 8.67 billion during the 52 week period ending December 27, 2003, up slightly from the 52 week period ending December 28, 2002.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 1 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during 2003 totaled 416 million, down 1 percent from 2002.

Leading breeders had intended placements of 3.20 million egg-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2003, up 9 percent from 2002.

Turkey Poults Placed Down 3 Percent

Turkey hatcheries placed 290 million poults in the United States during 2003. These placements were down 3 percent from 2002.

Hatchery Capacity

The capacity of chicken hatcheries on January 1, 2004 was 829 million eggs, down 4 percent from a year earlier.

The capacity of turkey hatcheries was 45.0 million eggs on January 1, 2004, down 1 percent from January 1, 2003.

DALE R. KING, STATE STATISTICIAN

**2004 JUNE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the June Agricultural Survey from May 29 through June 14. Representatives from this office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. The information gathered is confidential and will be used to set State, Regional, and National estimates of crops and grain stocks. Response to the survey is voluntary and farmers selected for the survey will be notified by mail. The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable, and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly marketing system. Only NASS, through its network of State Statistical Offices, can provide impartial statistics to farmers, agribusiness policy makers, and the general public.

We depend on the cooperation of the producers in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented in the regional and national picture.

The results of this survey will be released beginning June 30. These results will appear in the July edition of the Mountain State Reporter.

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
Chickens & Eggs
Meat Animal PDI
Poultry Production and Value
May Crop Production**

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